WMU™

NORTH *carolina*

OUR *story...*

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina has been blessed throughout her history with women who have had a passion to be Christ Followers.

Many of these women boldly stepped into leadership roles early in the formation of the Baptist faith in NC and many who were trained in Baptist schools followed Christ's bidding into leadership. From Fannie Heck, the first president, to Ruby Fulbright, current executive director, God has called faithful praying women to follow Him into the leadership of WMU of NC. The following is a brief vignette of some of the leaders of this vital growing missions organization. God continues to call people who have chosen to follow him to be missionaries, missions leaders and teachers.

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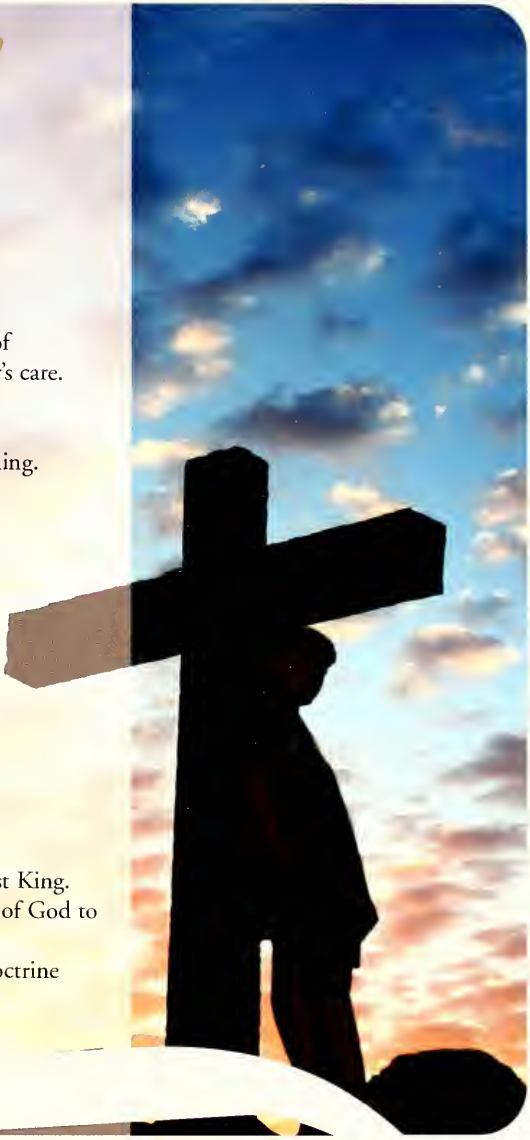
Fannie E. S. Heck, 1915

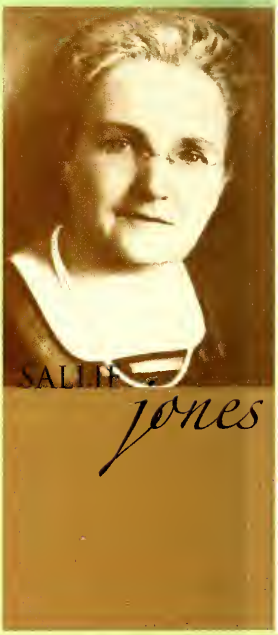
farewell ADDRESS

TO NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN

Changes will come; new faces take the place
of old; new and broader plans succeed those of
today; but our beloved Union is safe in our Master's care.
See to it, only, that you listen to His voice
and follow where Christ leads.
Be gentle in your personal lives, faithful and shining.
Be joyful, knowing His purposes are good,
not evil, to His Children.
Be prayerful in your planning.
Be patient and persistent in your fulfillment.
Endeavor to see the needs of the world
from God's standpoint.
Plan not for the year, but for the years.
Think long thoughts.
Strive for the conversion of those around
you as faithfully as for the heathen.
Train the children for world-wide service.
Lead the young women gently into places
of joyous responsibility.
Bring all your powers into the best service of the best King.
Thus shall your work abide and be abundantly blessed of God to
your own joy and the joy of the world.
In the belief that you will continue to adorn the doctrine
of service, I bid you, dear friends, Farewell.



Sallie Bailey Jones (Mrs. W N) served WMU of NC in many capacities during her fifty-seven years with the organization.



These included corresponding secretary, committee member, executive committee member, corresponding secretary and treasurer, president and president emeritus. Miss Bailey had worked in the poor section of Raleigh beside Fannie Heck and clearly showed her dedication to the people of the area when she and Fannie went to minister to them on a cold afternoon after her father denied them the use of a horse because it was too cold for the horse to stand outside. Following her marriage to Mr. W N Jones and birth of her children, she delicately balanced her missionary work and care for her family. She was fortunate to have housekeeping assistance, which enabled her to do the things she loved—

North Carolina

FANNIE HECK was a true pioneer in missions work. She rose to each challenge presented to her even the birth of a missions organization for Baptist women. The women gathered in the Biblical Recorder office on January 8, 1886, to form the Women's Central Committee of Missions. Two years later as Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, was being formed, Miss Heck and the other delegates attending with her were forced to sit in silence because the men wanted them to wait and see if this new organization would survive.

Miss Heck served as president of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (formerly Women's Central Committee of Missions) for a total of twenty-nine years. During her years of service she also served fifteen non-consecutive years as president of the national organization. Her accomplishments during her years of service include but are not limited to the following.

- Missionary Calendar-forerunner of the Calendar of Prayer
- The Missionary Talk, program literature for the study of missions
- Programs for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, now missions study
- First Royal Ambassador chapter in Goldsboro, NC
- Encouraged organization and was a strong supporter of the Baptist Female University now Meredith College
- Led volunteer teachers to go to the mountains of NC to teach children during the summer
- Began Royal Service, a monthly publication of national WMU now Missions Mosaic
- Wrote "The Woman's Hymn" for national WMU
- Authored three books
- Helped organize the Woman's Club of Raleigh and served as president for two years
- Encouraged and supported the formation of the WMU Training School, later known as the Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY

reading, needlework, gardening and serving others. She readily admitted that there were two things that she could not do—cook and drive a car however, these two things did not prevent her from following Christ through service to WMU of NC.

The accomplishments for WMU of NC during the tenure of Sallie Bailey Jones include but are not limited to:

- Selected the first motto "For ye serve the Lord Christ"
- Led NC women to give $1.6 million during the 75 Million Campaign of the SBC
- Encouraged the women to be faithful in their prayer life and stewardship of time, talents and money

FANNIE E S HECK AND SALLIE BAILEY JONES were faithful Christ followers throughout their lives. Collectively, they served as president of WMU of NC for the first fifty years. Their faithfulness was recognized and honored in 1924 when the state missions offering was named the Heck Memorial Offering and in 1947 the name was changed to the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering. Their leadership, which Miss Heck described as "learned to do by doing", inspired and encouraged many others to follow Christ into leadership roles. The Heck-Jones Memorial Offering today continues to fund the missions and ministries of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina through the North Carolina Missions Offering. The offering has enabled women and men to step forward and follow Christ in many capacities. The following missions and ministries have been accomplished through this offering.

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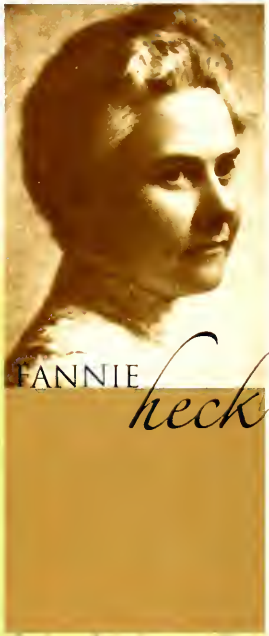
God called Fannie Exile Scudder Heck to follow Him into leadership roles early in her life.



She followed him to work with poor families in the poor section of Raleigh and to teach a boy's Sunday School class. Her faithfulness in reading God's word, praying constantly, and always listening for His voice helped to lead her to the next place of service. Miss Heck, at the age of 24, was asked to consider becoming the president of the Women's Central Committee of Missions of North Carolina. She readily accepted this call and even suggested her friend in missions work, Sallie Bailey, to be the corresponding secretary. Miss Bailey, age 16, agreed immediately to serve when she heard that her father said that she should do it.

- Restorative Justice (formerly Prison) Ministry – a strong ministry of WMU of NC, has inspired incarcerated women to return and serve as volunteers for the annual prison retreat following their release from prison.

- Camp Angel Tree – a growing ministry for children who have at least one parent in the prison system. Almost 100 girls enjoyed the benefit of camping at Camp Mundo Vista in 2005.

- Camp Mundo Vista – Camp Mundo Vista was envisioned and built under the leadership of Sara Ann Hobbs, executive director (1968-1977). The camp is open year round and offers a retreat setting for associations and churches as well as seven weeks of summer camp for girls.

- Baptist Nursing Fellowship – founded first in NC, while Nancy Curtis was executive director (1977-1993), encourages those in the nursing profession to serve in medical missions both short-term (mission trips) and long-term (medical missionaries).

- Ministers' Spouses Support – offers ministers' spouses the opportunity to meet for the purpose of Bible study and sharing the joys and difficulties of serving Christ in their role.

- Missionary Start Up – a monetary gift is given to each NC native missionary entering into full-time service with the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions.

- Short-Term Missions Volunteer – financial assistance is provided, as funds allow, to those who feel called to serve Christ through short-term mission trips.

Ruby Ann Jones Fulbright (Mrs. Ellis, Sr.) currently serves Christ as the Executive Director-Treasurer of WMU of NC.

She has demonstrated her willingness to follow Christ wherever He may lead her. Serving as a pastor's wife in North Carolina churches, a missionary in Zambia, secretary and missions leader in NC associations, part-time director of discipleship in Immanuel Church, Greenville, NC Executive Board member and president are just a few of the paths that Christ has called her to walk with Him. She maintains a delicate balance of being a Christ Follower, wife, mother and grandmother.

Mrs. Fulbright led the WMU of NC staff to consider what being a Christ Follower would mean to future generations in a 2004 retreat. WMU of NC, under her leadership, has begun a journey toward an unknown destination. She is leading NC women to pray for God's wisdom and discernment for the future of WMU of NC. Mrs. Fulbright challenges the staff and the members of the organization to remember the farewell address of Fannie Heck throughout this journey.

For more information on the history of
Woman's Missionary Union
of North Carolina the following
books are recommended:

Hitherto by Foy Johnson Farmer

The Magnificent Nobility:
A History of Woman's Missionary Union
of North Carolina 1952-1972
by Kate C Maddrey Crouch

And So Much More:
Living Legacies of North Carolina
Women on Mission
by Dorothy Allred

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